



Wildlands Update for November

General Recreation Notes

November is Alaska Native Heritage Month. Begich-Boggs Visitor Center will be closed during the winter due to lack of funding.

Firewood: As winter approaches, people are starting to gather firewood. For rules on specific locations open to the gathering of firewood, go to http://www.fs.fed.us/rio/chugach/news_releases/firewood.html for land within the Chugach National Forest or call (907) 269-8463 for locations on state land.

Please do not harass wildlife! View and photograph animals from a distance. Many animals (such as sea otters and moose) are busily storing up fat reserves. Remember, the energy and fat these animals are forced to burn by being stressed could determine whether they survive the winter.

Aurora Activity: The Northern Lights are now visible. For more information, go to <http://www.gedds.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast>.

Construction and Road Closures:

The Denali Highway is closed from Cantwell to Paxson until May 15. For updated road conditions throughout the state, dial 511 in Alaska or (866) 282-7577 outside Alaska or visit <http://511.alaska.gov/>

Alaska State Parks

Recent flooding in Seward has damaged or destroyed some state park facilities causing the state to temporarily close them to the public until they can be repaired. The 140' trail bridge crossing the south fork of Tonsina Creek had two of its pilings washed out, making the trail to Caines Head State

Recreation Area impassable. The Callisto Canyon Public Use Cabin will be closed to the public until trees brought down by torrential flooding can be removed from around the cabin.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, is accepting applications for the Recreational Trails Program grants until December 1st. For more information, visit <http://www.alaskatrails.org> or contact Samantha Carroll at (907) 269-8699 or at samantha_carroll@dnr.state.ak.us.

Chugach State Park

All trails are open. Be prepared for wet, cold and possible blizzards in the backcountry. For updates, go to <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/units/chugach> or call (907) 345-5014.

Eklutna

Lakeside Trail is open for ATV's on Sunday through Wednesday only.

Hatcher Pass

The road to Willow and the Independence Mine Visitor Center are closed for the winter.

Denali State Park

For information, contact the Mat/Su Area Office at (907) 745-3975.

Kachemak Bay

A few water-taxis will continue to operate this winter and at least one yurt may remain open. Cabins will NOT be maintained on a regular basis. Call (907) 262-5581 or (907) 235-7024 for updates.

Chena River

The DNR Division of Parks and Outdoor

Recreation is in the process of updating the 1984 Chena River State Recreation Area Management Plan. Comments must be in by November 6 at <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/plans/chena/chenapln.htm>

Detailed Information for Alaska's State Parks For more information about AK State Parks, call (907) 269-8400. Call (907) 745-3975 for Mat-Su State Park info or (907) 495-6273 for Nancy Lake Ranger Station. State Parks current events can be found at <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks/asp/curevnts.htm>

National Park Service Kenai Fjords National Park

Exit Glacier road and the Exit Glacier Visitor Center are closed for the season. Trails are still open. Cruises are now limited to 3 hours inside Resurrection Bay and only on weekends. Some cruises have year-round shuttle service from Anchorage. For further information call (907) 224-7500 or visit the website at <http://www.nps.gov/kefj>

Denali National Park and Preserve

The Murie Science and Learning Center will be open all winter from 10am-4pm. Riley Creek campground will remain open, but provides no services. Flight-seeing and

Some good websites

Alaska outdoor information:
<http://www.nps.gov/aplic>
Alaska weather information:
<http://www.arh.noaa.gov/>
Alaska Volcano Observatory :
<http://www.avo.alaska.edu/>
Sunrise-Sunset:
<http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data/>
Road Conditions:
<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/>

glacier landings are still available weather-permitting. For further information call (907) 683-2294 in Denali NP or (907) 733-2231 in Talkeetna or visit <http://www.nps.gov/dena>

Wrangell-St Elias Park and Preserve

The McCarthy and Nabesna roads are in good condition, but weather can change quickly, so call ahead before attempting either of these roads. The Nabesna road is maintained year-round. Call (907) 822-5234 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/wrst> for more information.

Fish and Wildlife Service

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
Winter hours, from Labor Day through May, are 8:00am-4:30pm on weekdays and 10:00am-5:00pm on weekends. The Visitor Contact Station is now closed. For information on education programs, go to <http://kenai.fws.gov/educators.htm>.

National Forest Service Chugach National Forest

The Glacier Ranger District will be offering avalanche classes every Tuesday from November 14 through December 12. Outhouses are available at the Begich-Boggs Visitor Center and Moose Flats year-round. Walk-in camping is allowed at campgrounds in the winter, but no services are provided. Construction is completed on several Resurrection Pass Trail cabins. All cabins are now open.

The Forest Service has published a supplement to the Kenai Winter Access Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Information is available at http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/news_releases/kenai_workshop/kenai_supplement.html

For more info, call the Glacier Ranger District (907) 783-3242 or the Seward Ranger District (907) 224-3374. For internet updates visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach>

MatSu Borough

For winter trails and activities from Palmer to Talkeetna go to <http://www.matsugov.us/RecServices/ParksOutdoorRecreation-Winter.cfm>

Southcentral Visitor Centers

Eagle River Nature Center
Located at mile 12 of Eagle River Road,

ERNC is open Fridays & weekends, 10am-5pm. During the winter, ERNC staff conduct field trips emphasizing snow studies, winter survival, and animal tracking. During the spring, popular field trips focus on plants, birds or insects. Reserve early, as April and May fill up quickly. There is a \$5.00 parking fee that is not covered by the Alaska State Parks day use pass. Call (907) 694-2108 for more information. Check their website at <http://www.ernc.org> or call (907) 694-2108 for more information.

Campbell Creek Science Center

The center is open Monday through Friday 7:30am-4pm.

The Fireside Chat Series is a monthly lecture series usually held on the third Wednesday of each month from October to May. The Astronomy Series is a monthly program on astronomy held on the second Thursday of each month.



Enjoy, exhibits, movies and trip planning in the warm comfort of the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in the old federal building in downtown Anchorage, AK

The Far North Bicentennial Park Trail User Committee meetings usually meet on the first Monday of each month. For a calendar of events and further information, call (907) 267-1247 or check the website at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/events.html>

Begich-Boggs Visitor Center

The visitor center will be closed during the winter due to lack of funding. Call (907) 783-2326 for more information or visit the website at http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/chugach/chugach_pages/bbvc.html

Alaska Public Lands Information Center

The Downtown Anchorage location is open 9:00am-5:00pm weekdays during the winter. Stop by to enjoy the exhibits and movies. Call (907) 271-2737 or go to <http://www.nps.gov/anch> for more information.

Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

A self-guided tour featuring sculpted models of wildlife and interactive stations simulates a journey through the nation's most far-reaching wildlife refuge. Winter programs this month include Discovery Lab- Kachemak Clams and Tides and Currents. The visitor center is open daily 9:00am-6:00pm. Admission and all programs are free. For more information call (907) 235-6961 or visit <http://www.islandsandoocean.org/>

Other Alaska Public Lands Information Centers:

Alaska Public Lands Information Center in downtown Fairbanks is open Tuesdays-Saturdays 10:00am-6:00pm. Call (907) 456-0527 for more information or go to <http://www.nps.gov/aplic/fairSeasonalBrochureFall2006.pdf> to get the latest scheduled program information.

The Tok Center location is open Monday to Friday 8:00am-4:30pm. Call (907) 883-5667 for more information.

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